

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2003

The Honorable Tom Ridge
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Ridge:

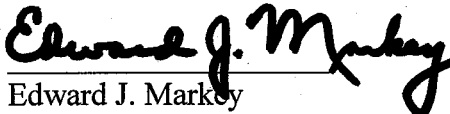
Last month, we wrote to you about the need for additional funding to strengthen security measures in the City of Boston and the surrounding port. As the Department determines how to distribute the \$700 million in grants for high threat urban areas that Congress included within the FY 2003 Supplemental Appropriations bill, we invite you and appropriate members of your staff to visit Boston. We would appreciate the opportunity to demonstrate to the Department the importance of increased homeland security funding for the city, and we believe that a tour of critical public infrastructure and commercial assets would illustrate the urgent need for such funding.

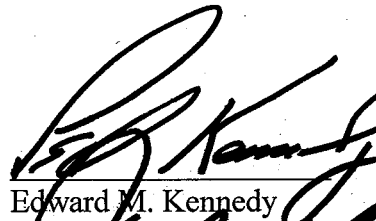
As we explained in our previous correspondence, Boston is home to industries that are vital to the economic health of Massachusetts and the entire six-state New England region. Boston is a major convention destination, hosting high profile events such as the 2004 Democratic National Convention, and it is a commercial center for leading firms in key sectors of the economy such as financial services, health care, biotechnology and higher education. As the hub of the nation's seventh-largest metropolitan area, Boston is an economic engine that drives commercial activities not only around the state and region, but also around the world. The city's busy cargo port, which contains the only urban liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal in the country, contributes to the economic activity of the entire New England region.


The Strategic Plan for Safeguarding the Commonwealth Against Terrorist and Related Threats identifies various sites as potential targets of terrorist strikes. Additional threat assessments, such as a U.S. Department of Justice study and the Boston Police Department's Operation Safe City survey, have been performed to pinpoint vulnerabilities around the city. We believe that now is the time to address these vulnerabilities. Increased funding, through high threat urban area grants or other suitable programs, would assist the Commonwealth to take the steps necessary to respond to the security challenges around the city.

We appreciate the Department's consideration of our request that you and appropriate staff visit Boston to tour vulnerable facilities. We will follow up with your staff to discuss the specifics of scheduling a visit. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. Mark Bayer in Representative Markey's office at 202-225-2836.

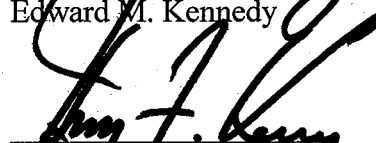
Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey

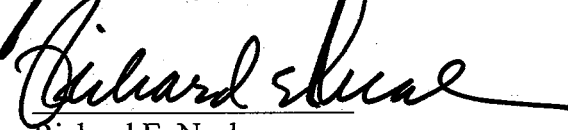

Edward M. Kennedy

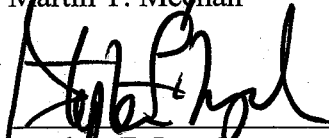

Mayor Thomas M. Menino

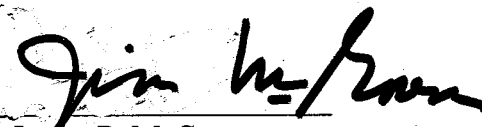

Barney Frank

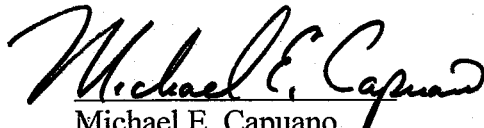

John F. Kerry


Martin T. Meahan

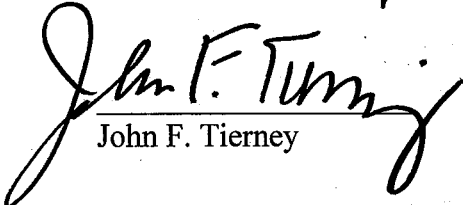

Richard E. Neal


Stephen F. Lynch


James P. McGovern


Michael E. Capuano


John W. Olver


John F. Tierney


William D. Delahunt